The Point

The Fitchburg State College Newspaper

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Library cleared as bomb threat leaves students confused

by Heather Rhodes

A raspy middle-aged man's voice came over the line and said, "There's a bomb in the library. It will go off in twenty minutes." At 6:20 p.m. on Sept. 16, FSC received a Bomb threat, only five days after our tragic World Trade Center Attack. It was a quiet Sunday evening in the library with approximately 15-20 people there. At 6:20 p.m. the quiet ended as the call was answered at the information desk of the library.

The student operator that received the threat, immediately called Campus Police. Officer Michael Czarnecki answered the call, then dispatched officer Tim Tallman to the scene. Officer Czarnecki asked the student operator to describe the caller the best she could. She informed him that it was a male with a raspy voice, apparently Caucasian, and she thinks between ages 30 -40.

A quiet afternoon at the library, the atmosphere not unlike that of Sept 16th.

Officer Tallman swiftly responded to the call, he safely and successfully evacuated the library and the entire Hammond building by 6:30 p.m.. There were approximately 40 people in the whole building. Meanwhile, Officer Czarnecki notified FSC Chief of police, Brian McCullough. Chief McCullough then informed the State police, Fitchburg police and the Fitchburg Fire department of the incident. "It was a successful collaboration between the three departments," says Chief McCullough, "The Hammond building and surrounding streets were completely blocked off." There was a total of 19 officials at the college's emergency; five FSC police officers, three Fitchburg police officers, three state troopers with K-9 units, and two Fitchburg fire trucks containing eight fireman.

Chief McCullough explained a protocol that FSC police follow in an event such as this. The first step is to evacuate the building the threat was made on, wait and keep clear for one hour from the time the bomb is suppose to go off. Then, officers do a complete sweep for a bomb or anything that might look suspicious. After the building check is clear they are to wait one more hour before reopening the building, and post a notification sign.

At 7:40 p.m. officers, Tallman, Schmitt, and Mayrose did a room-by-room search of the Hammond building, but did not find a bomb nor did they see anything suspicious. The building was reopened at 8:40 p.m., and all workers returned. A sign was posted on every entrance door, to inform people there had been a bomb threat and "Enter at own risk."

Chief McCullough, who is also a licensed clinical social worker, shared some of his personal views of the event at hand. He reported that the call was not made from the FSC campus. He also explained, "People are under a lot of stress and concern due to the 'Attack on America,' and this could have been one individual's improper way of relieving their own stress and anxiety. It was an intentional and malicious way to try and hurt other people." Though the chief first thought the incident may have a been a prank, he reassured that "all cases are treated with ultimate respect until determined otherwise." Extra security measures being considered include installing a type of answering machine that will record all calls to the college.

The chief does not think this was a college student's prank, rather he thinks the caller was most likely and upset local resident of Fitchburg. Chief replied, " If it were a college student's prank it most likely would have been on a busy night and/or during a time of major exams or papers being due."

Two FSC students, Robin Kanter and Stephanie Renaud, were unaware of the threat and evacuation till they literally walked in on it. "I walked through the front door and we went into the M&M lounge where we were interrupted by police officers and fire fighters. They told us there was a bomb threat and we had to leave immediately. We were surprised and worried," said Kanter. Amy Bobrowski, a FSC sophomore, heard about the threat form a safer distance. Bobrowski added, "I first herd about it when my friend called me and informed on what happened, I was scared at first. I called campus police to find out the severity of the issue, but they could not give me any information. Now I think the whole ordeal was ridiculous and and I am very surprised that the school did not release an official statement, many people still don't know what happened." To end all rumors and uncertainties, The FSC Bomb threat was a prank, and these sick pranks are going on at many different places, but being handled in the most serious manner.

Letter from the Editor

I once wrote an essay asserting that our generation, "Generation Y," has lacked a spectacular event binding us together or common goal uniting our community. I explained that in the 1930's, young adults and even children were thrusted into the work force attempting to support their families through the Great Depression on measly wages. In the 1940's there were the Allied Powers to support in World War II as they strove to do away with Hitler's genocide.

Rosa Parks was a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement in 1955. Though the nation was split in views on segregation, there was still a cause individuals could use to relate to one another. The 1960's proved to be another split view decade as the nation was either filled with free loving spirits, or war hungry bodies. These causes of the past show that a young adult in NY could relate and have the same feelings as one in California. In contrast to these unified generations, we were known as lazy, and self-interested, the troublemakers; enjoying loud music and embracing all despite piercings, tattoos, or unnatural colored hair. As my essay ran on and on, a final note worthy statement concluded that nothing has challenged us to work together as a whole.

I spoke too soon. We have rallied, volunteered our time and services without question. Our grief for the victims and their families was grief as a nation. As we move on to demand justice, it is our generation of young men and women in the military that are searching for the nations enemies. Our efforts are not solely to recapture this generation's sense of freedom and safety, but to reinstall those strong values for generations to come . There are those who enlisted in the armed forces immediately upon hearing of the attacks not knowing what the future would bring. As Bush stated, we are fighting against a "united and determined enemy, we must have a united and determined response."

On a tape released recently, bin Laden declared, "America will not live in peace before peace reigns in Palestine." But we must remember that though we are at war, our war is foreign, not domestic for our souls now bound as one cannot be broken. We are not subject to a civil war, for though there are individuals favoring certain actions, we understand that the enemy is not each other.

It is our generation that will hold on to this, our souls that are so young and so full of promise. It is our generation that must pass on lessons learned, emotions felt and lead the future of America toward a new freedom where we do not believe we are invincible as individuals, but know that we are indestructable as a nation.

Amy S. Bobrowski
Editor-in-Chief

Letter to the Editor

It has long been my privilege to be part of the FSC community, and the difficult days following September 11th have reminded me how magnificent our campus can be. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to engage with our students s we candidly discussed our diverse reactions to the terrorism we endured together. I am impressed by the mutual respect consistently maintained during our conversations.

There are those among us who have lost loved ones to the tragedy; there are those among us who have been and will be called to active military duty; there are those among us who are finding ways to contribute to our recovery; and there are those among us who silently, deeply, share others' sorrow. Together, we are moving through our grief to recover hope. FSC students are a thoughtful and compassionate group.

My intention, following our tragedy, had been to offer a service to our community by providing forums for discussion. I did not know that I would receive so *much more* than I could possibly give.

Dr. Globiana
Professor, Behavioral Sciences

The Point

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The Point considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to an article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of *The Point,* its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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Calendar of events and activities

Dance

Diversity Through Dance - Oct. 13, 2 p.m., festival of folk dance celebrating the cultural diversity of American society, including Irish, Spanish, Hmong, Middle Eastern, Russian, African tribal, Native American and sacred dance; part of AmeriCulture Arts Festival; McKay elementary School auditorium, 67 Rindge Road, Fitchburg.

Film

"Psycho" - Oct. 18, 7 p.m., screening presented as part of the Classic Film Series; free; Ellis White Lecture Hall

"Big Night" - Oct. 25, 7 p.m., screening sponsored by the Center for Italian Culture; $5, $3 for sudents and seniors; Hammond Building

These to video gamers battle it out in Grand Turismo 3 during Ground Zero's game night for a 1st place prize of a $300 gift certificate to Toys R' Us.

Music

Glenn Miller Orchestra - Oct. 19, 7 p.m., big-band concert; $20, $15 for staff, seniors, groups; $5 for FSC students and children under 18; Weston Auditorium

Special events

FalconFest - Oct. 12 and 13, fall family and alumni weekend begins with parade at 7 p.m. Friday, followed by fireworks at 8:30 p.m. at FSC Athletic Field, and History of Rock & Roll with Barry Drake in Hammond Lounge; free; Saturday, 8:30 p.m., "1984 - The Tribute to the Beatles"; $10, $5 for alumni and parents, $3 for students; FSC Recreation Center.

Herrod Lecture - Oct. 30, 3:30 p.m., "Ethics and the Environmental Crisis"; free; Kent Recital Hall, Conlon Building

Halloween Party - Oct. 28, 1-3 p.m., presented by IFSC; Underground; Oct. 31, 8 p.m., Creature Feature and Halloween Bash; Underground

Kareoke - Oct. 19, 8 p.m.; Underground

Open Mike Poetry Reading Series - Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m., with featured reader Laure-Anne Bosselaar; $3 donation; Cafe Diem inside Vanity Plate, 40 Main St., Leominster.

Stare and Share: The Living Museum - Oct. 14, 2 p.m., regional actors serve as living sculptures to illustrate the prejudices and fears people have about those who are different, while audience members interpret what is happening in each tableau; discussion follows the event part of AmeriCulture Arts Festival; McKay Elementary School auditorium, 67 Rindge Road, Fitchburg.

Theater

"Captains and Courage" - Oct. 12 and 13, 7:30 p.m., coming-of-age story by Israel Horovitz; directed by Richard McElvain; $10, $7 for seniors, $5 for children; call 978-665-3347; sponsored by AmeriCulture Arts Festival; Alumni Performing Arts Center, Applewild School, 120 Prospect St., Fitchburg.

"The Glass Menagerie" - Oct. 12 and 13, 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Williams play; directed by James Nicola; $10, $7 for seniors, $5 for children;978-665-3347; sponsored by AmeriCulture Arts Festival; Percival Hall.

"Our Town" - Oct. 14, 2 p.m., Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Thornton Wilder; directed by James Nicola; $10, $7 for seniors, $5 for children; 978-665-3347; sponsored by AmeriCulture Arts Festival; Alumni Performing Arts Center, Applewild School, 120 Prospect St., Fitchburg.

Visual art

"The Art of Parenthood: Family Connections" - Through Oct. 26, invitational exhibit illustrating aspects of family life, includes pastels, sculpture, photography, woodcuts; curated by Susan Wadsworth, associate professor; free; sponsored by the AmeriCulture Arts Festival; Art Gallery, Hammond Building.

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This week's calendar covers events through Oct. 30. Listings including date, time, location, admission fee, sponsor and contact telephone number may be sent by email to point@fsc.edu, or by campus mail to The Point, Hammond Building.

AmeriCulture across the states

By Joanna Jackson

It's powerful, soul impacting, and just plain fun. These are just some of the reasons that a group of New York actors give to explain why they have returned for the second time to Fitchburg to be involved in the FSC AmeriCulture Arts Festival.

John Little is back for a second year after playing Atticus Finch in To Kill a Mockingbird in last year's festival. Little is a 20-year veteran of theater and lives in New York. This year, he plays the stage manager in Our Town and a variety of parts in Captains and Courage.

Kelly Morgan, the AmeriCulture artistic director, met Little at an audition in NY last year. Little originally hoped to play Friar Lawrence in Romeo and Juliet but when Morgan asked him to read with a southern accent, the role of Atticus was filled. "Some accents are easier than other," Little said, and his role as stage manager calls for an accent that is hard to pin down. It's a 'down east' accent with lots of 'ay yuhs,' he said.

In addition to bringing in professional actors from New Yorkl, Morgan also included actors from Chicago, Boston and Virginia. "I do this because as the AmeriCulture Arts Festival is the name of our event, I feel it is important to have actors who are professional and students from across the American continent."

Jarel Davidow is also back for his second year and is filling a number of roles in both Our Town and Captains. Davidow finished working at the New Hampshire Shakespeare Festival the day before coming to Fitchburg for rehearsals at the end of August. "There are pros and cons with working with the same people for a second year," Davidow said. "A rapport is there between people who have worked together before, and initial barriers are gone, but there is new energy when working with new people." Traveling is nothing new for Davidow, having worked all across the country and in Edinburgh, Scotland. "You go where the work is. I love to travel."

"I do this because as the AmeriCulture Arts Festival is the name of our event, I feel it is important to have actors who are professional and students from across the American continent."
-Kelly Morgan

Tim Gleason, who performed in To Kill A Mockingbird last year, stars in Glass Menagerie this year. He said he enjoyed being able to live together with the other actors in the FSC dorms. It allowed them to have fun and "became college kids again," he said. "It is good exposure for our FSC students to meet and work with these professionals and our students get a glimpse of the real world outside of college," Morgan said. "Our Fitchburg area actors get to meet and act and interact with artists who bring to our area new perspectives and experiences."

For Michele L. Egerton, who performed in Raisin in the Sun last year, and in Our Town this year, the AmeriCulture festival led to an opportunity to go to college. Egerton graduated from LaGuardia High School of Music and the Arts, the Fame school of New York, and auditioned for Morgan last year. Upon hearing of her desire to return to college, Morgan invited her to enroll at FSC and became her mentor.

Egerton moved to Fitchburg in January and will graduate in 2005. She will then continue her professional acting career in New York. Egerton is not the only actor who found a mentor among the crew of AmeriCulture. In addition to professional and local actors, the festival productions include a large number of children from the local area. According to Little, in addition to several new children, five of the six kids who acted in Mockingbird last year are back again and acting in Our Town or Captains. "James Nicola, director of the two plays, is great working with young actors," Little said. "He teaches them theater etiquette and the whole business of what it is to be an actor. He gives you the whole history of the theater in his directing."

Egerton said she enjoys working with kids because "I'm a big kid myself. We get along fine. They respect me and I like that." J.R. Robinson, a New York actor, fight scene choreographer and two-year veteran of AmeriCulture, said theater needs some community base to survive. It is a communal experience.

Gleason who began acting full time in 1991, moved from stand-up comedy to more serious roles and sees acting as something powerful and holy, almost a religion. He strives to inspire the audience to change in some way. "It's silly and goofy, but that is why I do it."

He is not alone. Egerton also believes theater is a ministry that speaks to people. The actors are said they were willing to return again next year for AmeriCulture's fifth season. "I would love to come back," Little said. "I' ve had the opportunity to do two great roles [Atticus and Our Town stage director]. You don't get to do the great parts all the time."

MASSPIRG launches its fall campaign

With bright, fall foliage just around the corner, hundreds will be heading to public lands like state parks or the park down the street for a little rest and recreation. What they may not know is that their neighborhood open space could be a target for development.

Development is transforming the Massachusetts landscape, eating up two acres of land an hour, or approximately 16,000 acres a year, according to the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Developers often treat public lands as Alands in waiting for commercial and residential development. From the Greylock Glen in Adams to Den Rock Park in South Lawrence, developers have been eyeing these open spaces for development opportunities.

"We can no longer take for granted that public lands like our state parks or even your local neighborhood park will be around forever," said Erin Stone, campaign coordinator for MASSPIRG, "Anot when any open space is fair game for developers."

Municipalities often introduce bills in the Legislature for access to public lands for both public and private purposes. The Legislature may then transfer land to municipalities by a two-thirds vote, which is usually a routine matter with no debate. According to a MASSPIRG report, from 1989 to 2000, over half of the land transfers (56%) were for commercial, industrial, residential, and other unknown purposes.

To protect public lands that are set aside for preservation, MASSPIRG is launching its first public lands campaign to pass legislation known as the "Public Lands Preservation Bill" (S.1109). Specifically, the bill will set strict criteria before public lands are sold or leased by:

1. Requiring the exploration of alternatives to developing open space;
2. Requiring replacement land of equal value if land is ultimately taken;
3. Arming the Legislature with more information on the proposed use of the land.

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Come 'Altogether' right now

By Kyle Wall

Returning with the new album The Altogether, Orbital has proved once again why they are one of the more popular electronic acts to come from the British Isles in the past 10 years. Saturated with crappy commercial techno over recent months, I am glad to hear a distinguished electronic act release an album that is true to their fans expectations. While not as remarkable as their last album, Middle of Nowhere, this one will still win you over with a few listens.

Funny Break (One is Enough), already big in Europe, is making its way into the music stream here in the States. With a melodic beat and smooth vocals, this song is hard to resist. Calling on the vocal talents of rising star and personal friend, David Gray, Orbital gives us Illuminate. Originally written for their previous album with Gray in mind, but never finished, Gray laid down the vocals one evening.

The combo of the two artists is very complimentary and could easily become a big hit. Also interesting on the album is Tootled, a track consisting of seven Tool samples and I believe one Trent Reznor scream. Quite an interesting track, and worthy of a few spins. Doctor? is Orbital's take on the old Doctor Who theme. Originally only done live during their shows, it has been done over in the studio and the results speak for themselves.

The Altogether is worthy of your hard-earned cash. Plus, included is a second disc, full of bonuses. Count yourselves lucky, because this is an American version exclusive. When you do buy and appreciate the album, you may wonder about music videos. Have no fear, for the Hartnoll brothers have created a full length DVD with videos for every song on the release, sans the bonus disc. Unfortunately, it is currently unavailable here in the States. But that should not get you down. If they love us enough to give us a bonus disc, they will surely bring the DVD over in just a matter of time.

This will put you 'In the Mood'

The legendary Glenn Miller Orchestra will perform at FSC on Friday, Oct. 19, at 7 p.m. in Weston Auditorium as part of the college's Center Stage Program. Tickets are $20 for the general public; $15 for seniors, groups and alumni ($5 for FSC students and children under 18) and are available at the college's box office or by mail order.

Such Miller tunes as "String of Pearls," "Chattanooga Choo Choo," "Moonlight Serenade," and "In the Mood" are among the most definitive big band music ever written. The classic Miller sonority- five saxophones sounding as one- is still the rage as "swing music" resurges.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra is a self-contained group consisting of leader Larry O'Brien, five saxophone players, four trumpeters, four trombonists, three rhythm musicians and two vocalists. The male and female singers perform both individually and as part of The Moonlight Serenade vocal group.

Just as in Miller's day, the average age of the sidemen is 23, and most of them have degrees in music from some of the most illustrious music schools in the country- Berklee, North Texas State, Ohio State, Indiana University, University of Miami, UCLA, USC, New England Conservatory, Eastman and more.

The big-band business today requires almost constant travel as a result of an arduous schedule of one-night stands. The Glenn Miller Orchestra is "on the road" longer and more continuously than any other in the world. It covers more than 100,000 miles a year, working nearly every night for 48 weeks, performing for more than a half-million people annually.

Musical director O'Brien, who first performed with the Miller band in the early 1960's, had played and led a variety of big bands. For several years he was the leader of the group backing Frank Sinatra.

The Popcorn Critic

Model madness in 'Zoolander'

By Brian Wyatt

In the world of modeling, no one is greater than international male model Derek Zoolander (Ben Stiller). When upstart model Hansel (Owen Wilson) is voted "Male Model of the Year," ending Derek's 3 year winning streak, he faces humanity's greatest question – Why am I here? He sets out to help children "who can't read good," but finds himself under the influence of the evil Mugatu (Will Ferrell), fashion designer and agent against child labor laws. Brainwashed to kill the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Derek turns to Hansel and reporter Matilda Jeffries for help. Together they set out to stop the evil plot, while trying to look good doing it.

When you see Ben Stiller you expect to get plenty of low-key laughs. As dim-witted Derek Zoolander he is at his comic best. Though not as thoughtful or charming as *Meet the Parents,* this film still manages to cast a wickedly funny look at the fashion industry. It is a world where models are killed during a playful gasoline fight and models challenge each other to "walk offs," runway challenges set to Michael Jackson's *Beat It.* You can't help but feel just a little bit sorry for mentally challenged Derek while at the same time despise the oddly cool Mugatu. *Zoolander* does try too hard build a story around its gags but when you get to the punch lines it's often worth the wait. This movie also includes cameos too numerous to count. Everyone from Fabio to David Bowie to Jon Voight shows up. For a complete list of cameos (for the curious) look up *Zoolander* at the Internet Movie Database, www.imdb.com. All in all, this movie gives an average number of laughs, but with great comic performances it could be a runway hit. **2½ buckets of popcorn out of 4.**

'Heart' with no story

By Brain Wyatt

When Bobby Garfield (David Morse) learns of a childhood friend's death he finds himself visiting the house he grew up in. Looking through his old bedroom window he thinks back to his eleventh birthday and the magical summer he had. Ted Brautigan (Anthony Hopkins) is an elderly gentleman just passing through. He rents the upstairs apartment and befriends young Bobby (Anton Yelchin), providing him with the adult friendship that is self-absorbed mother is unable and filling in the void left by a father who died years before. While Bobby explores the thrills of growing up, like his first kiss, he is drawn into Ted's dark secret. In this summer his world changes forever.

This movie is a nice change of pace from the summer's highly explosive action movies. This film is a little slow but the pacing is almost unnoticeable thanks to wonderful cinematography. The scenes are soft and

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Scenes from an American family

By Robin L. Kanter

The Short Scene Festival had its opening night on September 23, 2001, at the McKay Campus School, in the Elementary School Auditorium. The Short Scene Festival had one goal: to examine different family issues with a sense of comic relief, and some with serious conflict. The Short Scene Festival consisted of 8 plays with only four being performed each night. On September 23, 2001 *Fried Rice & Ketchup*, *Scrabble*, and *Open Slot* premiered on stage for the 1st time. September 26, 2001 was the premiere of *The Virgin.*

With brilliant casting and great directing, the show was a success. This display of family interaction brought up different topics which run the course in our lives everyday; from a child who is in a dark place, to a girl getting ready to come out to the public. With real life situations, the show expressed sorrow, excitement, death, cheating, lying, harassment, torment, and the everyday feeling of life, in a manner that one could relate to.

The Short Scene Festival opened with *Fried Rice & Ketchup*, which was a scene about a little girl who let the dark side of herself out as her personality. She was teased by children, and had a mother in an intimate relationship, which is hard for little children to deal with sometimes. She had imaginary friends whom died in the end. The part of Emily was played by a 9 year old named Elizabeth Burke. An outstanding performance was given by Elizabeth, as well as by the rest of the cast. It brought good morals to action, and made the audience look back in their lives to see if this ever concerned them. The second scene was Scrabble.

Scrabble took place in a normal family home, where the two parents and three children were going to sit down to play a nice family game. The parents in this show were excited, hoping to find out something about their children through hidden messages spelled throughout the words. Little did the parents know that the children knew their plan the whole time and were actually scheming against them. The characters played their role as a normal family quite well, having regular arguments, sibling rivalry, and the intensity parents have toward one another at different times. Meredith Collins played the main character of the mother. She had an outstanding performance. The rest of the cast was brilliant as well.

The Virgin was up next, debuting for the first time. Dealing with issues of a teenage daughter about to come out to the world, *The Virgin* dealt with issues that affect us all. It was portrayed through a young girl getting ready for the Coming Out Ball. Beside her stood her mother who was putting the finishing touches on her dress. Emily Ragusa, who played the virgin, was talking to her mother about the emotions she was feeling. Using terms that would not be offensive to the audience, the two actresses played a marvelous part. Being able to get the topic out without having to use obscenity was one of the best parts of this scene. An excellent job was done by both actresses.

The final scene for the night was *Open Slots. Open Slots* was the most comic of the four scenes. It expressed the feeling of old women and how their lives had turned out. Most of their time was spent gambling, complaining about their husbands, or how they were widowers. Ruby played a comic wife, who just wanted her husband to die, so that she could spend all her money on gambling without being told by her husband she could not. Ruby's best friend Bee-Bee, lost her husband in earlier years and acted as if she was happy; but deep inside she was heartbroken. Their nemesis, Ester, who they portrayed as their friend, was as lucky as they come, because she won everything every time she gambled and was off to Vegas with the Senior Citizen Home. The actresses were funny and this was a great scene to watch. Ruby was the best character because she acted like a really old woman would, and gave the audience her real life story.

Andy Crosby, who is a freshman and is majoring in Communications Television/Film, attended the Short Scene Fest on September 26, 2001, thought, "It was a great approach to some of these topics and rated the performance excellent." I recommend The Short Scene Festival to anyone interested in good theater and topics that would affect you. The casting and directing was excellent and it is an Americulture event everyone should see.

Scenes from an Italian Restaurant

FSC's fall semester film series begins with a screening of the film "Big Night" on Thursday, Oct. 25, at 7 p.m. in the Hammond Building's Ellis White Lecture Hall. "Big Night" is the first of four films focusing on Italian-American experiences, and is sponsored by The Center for Italian Culture. The film series is a part of Center Stage at FSC, which also presents performances, lectures and other events.

The four films complement "Sogni d'Oro- Dreams of Gold," and oral history project by the Center for Italian Culture. "Big Night" is a big celebration- an on screen, mouth watering feast. Italian cuisine has been somewhat redefined by the broad American culture. This film, which was nominated for 10 awards, deals with that perception and what "true" Italian food means to Italian brothers who are trying to save their restaurant.

Professor Mario Aste of UMass-Lowell will facilitated a post viewing for discussion. Admission is $5 for the general public and $3 for students and seniors. For more information, call 978-665-3709 or 978-665-3347.

Easy being green

By Shaun Moriarty

In 1968 the Beatles came out with their 10th album, entitled "The Beatles." However, the self-titled album quickly became known as the White Album. Metallica followed suit in 1991 with a self-titled album, which was dubbed the Black Album. And now Weezer continues the trend with their self-titled album which is being called the Green Album.

1994's self-titled album, Weezer, was the band's first release. The album had 10 songs, including the hit "Buddy Holly," which put the band on the map. It also has the song "Say It Ain't So," another fan favorite. In 1996, Weezer released "Pinkerton," which had 10 songs, all written by the band's frontman Rivers Cuomo. Their first album was mostly Cuomo originals, however there were several tracks by other writers or collaborations with drummer Patrick Wilson. Pinkerton didn't sell quite as good as their initial Weezer album, however, now in 2001 the band returns triumphantly with their third album.

The new self-titled album, or Green Album, was released May 15 of this year and is another 10-track album with nothing but Cuomo origi-

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Grab the remote

By Scott A. Sheldon

With the world still reeling from the attack on America, don't viewers need an escape now and again with the friendly television set? Although the coverage of global affairs will continue, the fall season has already begun. Granted the debuts of most series have been delayed a week or two, but with nearly everything up and running now, a person can get lost in a sea of counter programming. Get prepared, and take a look at a typical week of television.

SUNDAY

This is certainly an evening of counter programming. CBS is going for its standard older audience with the new Richard Dreyfuss drama *The Education of Max Bickford*, while NBC is attempting to follow *Weakest Link* with two new dramas. Fox is keeping its slate of cartoons and The *X-Files*, but your best bet may be to start here, and then at 9:00 move to ABC for *Alias*. It's about a grad student who moonlights as a CIA operative (think La Femme Nikita meets Run Lola Run). It's from the creators of *Felicity*, and looks to be a hot up-and-comer.

'Alias'

MONDAY

This night is spotty at best. David E. Kelley fans can still watch the twosome of *Boston Public* followed by *Ally McBeal* (trying to recover from the loss of Robert Downey Jr.), and of course *Monday Night Football* isn't going anywhere. CBS hasn't changed its lineup, keeping its string of sitcoms in place, followed by *Family Law*, but you may want to pass on that lackluster show and give *Crossing Jordan* a try. Jill Hennessy plays a funky medical examiner, but hasn't that already been done on *C.S.I.*? In any case, Hennessy supposedly makes the most of her new show, but it seems like she's regretting that she left *Law & Order* in the first place.

TUESDAY

This is a night for the VCR. You have *Buffy* going up against *Gilmore Girls* at 8:00, and at 9:00, Roswell has to battle three new shows: *Smallville*, *The Guardian*, and *24*. *Smallville* is a retelling of the Superman mythos, beginning with him and Lex Luthor as teenage friends, but certainly the show with the most buzz is *24*. This show stars Kiefer Sutherland as a counter-terrorist agent in 24 consecutive episodes, each running in real time over a one-hour slot of a 24-hour period. No, he doesn't sleep for eight episodes, but the format and high-speed action have many expecting this to be a hit. However, due to the nature of its content, this is one of many shows who will be tweaking its storylines because of the recent tragedy.

WEDNESDAY

ABC runs its line of sitcoms this night, while the most other networks go for hour long dramas. Ed is still followed by *The West Wing* and *Law & Order* on NBC, while CBS is going for reality (*The Amazing Race*) and the show most likely to be canceled first (Wolf Lake). One show which is garnering much attention is UPN's new *Star Trek Series Enterprise*. For those of you who haven't heard, this show takes place 100 years before Captain Kirk and the original series, and has the makings of a solid hit. The debut episode was energetic and fun, and the sexy Vulcan played by Jolene Blalock assuredly has some fan websites already.

THURSDAY

This night has changed little since last year, and the competition will be fierce once again. Friends, followed by the new Breckin Meyer sitcom *Inside Schwartz*, will again test the strength of the reality craze, duking it out with *Survivor: Africa*. One alternative to consider is the Fox network, which will air the at-times hilarious *Family Guy*, followed by the new show, *The Tick*, a live-action version of the comic book and previously-aired Fox cartoon. This may end up one of the funniest hours of the new season, especially for those yearning for something different.

The Tick

FRIDAY

This is a quieter night of television, but it certainly has its bright spots. *Dark Angel* moves from Tuesday to the old *X-Files* slot on Fridays at 8:00, and is up against Ellen Degeneres' new show appropriately titled *The Ellen Show*. At 9:00 you have options, two of which are new shows. *Thieves* is the glitzy John Stamos spy show, and *Pasadena* is the twisted family melodrama which seems very Aaron Spelling-esque. Either way, if you find yourself still at home at 10:00, tune in to *Once and Again*, one of televisions finest hours.

If you've watched this much television during the week, by Saturday you could use a break, and that's fine, because since it is the least watched night of television, it has the least to offer — unless of course you enjoy *Touched by an Angel*.

So there is your week in review, full of promise and enthusiasm, so much like students at the start of freshman year. Similarly, many of these shows will not make it through their first year, so check them out now. What's here today may be gone tomorrow.

Hannibal's heart

Continued from page 5

full of color, bringing to mind classic movies of the past. Anthony Hopkins gives a wonderful touching performance, showing his great diversity. It is a far cry from the evil calculating Hannibal. He brings to it a kind of charm you would expect from your favorite grandfather, gentle and wise. He caries the strongest presence in the movie, even though the main character is young Bobby. Anton Yelchin also gives a wonderful performance, lending a believable innocence to a character in an unusual circumstance. This is a movie about performances not flashy explosions or off the wall comedy. In fact, at times it was hard to tell what the point of the story really was. But then maybe that's the point. It's sometimes nice to tell a story just for the sake of the story. **2½ buckets of popcorn out of 4.**

The Green Album

Continued from page 6

nals. This is their best album to date. The big hits off the album are "Hash-Pipe," and "Island In The Sun."

"Don't Let Go," another song off the album, is very similar to Buddy Holly in the way it is performed. Still a good song. "Hash Pipe," was the first song to be released as a single and was the first to have a music video air on MTV and VH1. The song shows Weezer playing as sumo wrestlers go at one another. Nothing like 600 pounds of Asian fat ramming into one another while a skinny guy in black-rimmed glasses sings about hash.

"Island In The Sun," is the other current single. The music video for this tune is set with chimpanzees and various other wild animals. It's a good slow song that has done well commercially.

"Glorious Day," is another one of the album's better songs. The lyrics are there and there isn't much lacking from it. The final song on the album is another good one, "O Girlfriend." It's similar to the typical breakup song as Cuomo sings about missing his girlfriend and agonizes about whether or not she missed him or cares about him.

In all, it's a very good album, and definitely Weezer's best album to date. Unlike most albums, this one doesn't really have any tracks that when you hear the first five-seconds of it you skip to the next track. Check it out.

You can see members of the FSC Cance Club on Sat., Oct 13th as part of Falcon Fest weekend. Presentation will be at 2:30 in the Hammond Lounge.

Douglas does it again

By Roger Roy

"Don't Say A Word" stars Michael Douglas as child psychologist Dr. Nathan Conrad. On the eve of Thanksgiving, Douglas is called in to evaluate a near catatonic girl named Elisabeth Burrows (Brittany Murphy). She has a hidden and mysterious past. Douglas is unable to communicate through her on their first session, so he leaves to go home. The following morning, at his home, Douglas and his injured wife Aggie Conrad (Famke Janssen), find out that his 8-year-old daughter has been kidnapped. The movie turns this into a race against the clock when kidnappers take his 8-year-old daughter and give him a 5 p.m. deadline. To do what? To pry a six-digit number from the memory of a mental patient.

And that's not all. For the second half of the movie, there are four parallel plots, involving Douglas working over the patient, his wife struggling to defend herself with her leg in a cast, his daughter trying to outsmart the kidnappers and a woman detective stumbling over the crime during a related investigation.

Michael Douglas is playing a type of character he has played numerous times, a well dressed man, with a nice house, attractive wife, and he comes into a problem. However, he is good at what he does. Who else can start out so well groomed and end up as such a mad dog? It makes the movie watchable. Somewhat newcomer Brittany Murphy has one of the roles I enjoy watching, someone with a problem. She does have a future ahead of her.

The movie was directed by Gary Fleder, whose "Kiss the Girls" (1997) was unyielding and stylish. Here again, he shows a unique visual touch, cutting between cozy domestic interiors and action scenes shot in gritty grays and blues.

This Don't plays better then it is. Without the mixture from the visuals to the acting, it would have been another run-of-the-mill movie. But instead, they had a vision and stuck to it. It keeps the pace moving with no boring parts. Thanks especially to the marvelous editing job.

The only problem with this movie would be the introduction and conclusion of characters. They suddenly appear and they disappear even quicker. It makes no sense.

Overall, I would give this film 7 stars with the occasional 8 out of 10.

IM addicted

By Ben Reed

Instant messaging is a popular computer program among college students that has changed the way students communicate with each other. Ten years ago if a student wanted to make plans for a weekend or a study group that person would have to pick up the phone and call every person one by one. Now with instant messaging, students can send text messages back and forth in real time to friends and family.

According to America Online Inc., AOL, "sending an instant message is even faster than composing an e-mail or making a phone call and will continue to revolutionize personal and business communications. Lisa Clark agrees, "If we didn't have instant messaging we wouldn't know what was going on with our friends who live in different buildings as us. Also, we can swap ideas with our friends who are at other colleges."Instant messaging began in 1989 with America Online, a subscription based program that allowed real time communication to take place. Then in 1996 AOL Inc. added the buddy list feature to its service. This new feature allowed users to see friends and family who had AOL that were online and arrange them into categories. A year later AOL Inc. launched AOL Instant Messenger, a free program devoted to instant messaging only. Since then the company has seen the popularity of instant messaging grow by leaps and bounds. There are more then 100 million registered names around the world for the service and about 656 million instant messages are sent every day.

College students like Becky Blackmer use AIM all the time, "I am online from the time I get up until I go to bed." Although she adds, "I am not always using it. I have away messages up a lot of times." Away messages allow users to leave a note that alerts the person trying to get in contact with them where they may be found if the user is away from the computer, similar to an answering machine. Other features of instant messaging include sending and receiving files, playing games with other users, and adding emoticons, small text symbols arrange on a face pattern to express an emotion, :-), to messages.

Emoticons are part of a new language that has developed through the use of instant messaging. Because of the difficulty in determining emotions on a computer conversation, acronyms such as LOL, which stands for laugh out loud, have been created. J/K (just kidding), and N2M (not too much) are also used to shorten the amount of time to ask questions and respond. "I use the emoticons all the time and I also use slang sometimes," says Blackmer. Brad Smith, another student, said, "I am a big hater of those stupid LOL's and U R and stuff like that. Why not just spell it out?"

Most students agree though that instant messaging has changed how they communicate at college. Stephanie Beaudoin said, "People are instant messaging people to find out what is going on instead of talking on the phone, and you can talk to more than one person at a time, I walk into a room and some people have 4 or more instant message windows going at the same time." Sometimes she instant messages friends who are right next-door, just for fun. Communicating has become easier for college students because of AIM. "It sometimes makes talking to people from classes easier because you can talk to them while doing your homework then when you're on the phone," adds Blackmer.

While there are many positives students have also noticed some negative effects produced by AIM. Beaudoin noted, "I always prefer to talk to my family and very close friends on the phone, but if they are on, then I will instant message them. I think if you are trying to have a serious conversation, instant messaging is not the best method of communication." Melanie Morse agrees, "The phone sometimes is more personal. You also can not tell a persons emotions over instant messenger."

Still though, the positives outweigh the negatives, "It's cheaper than a phone, and I can talk to more than one person at a time," says Morse. "Its easier than e-mail because you get an immediate answer rather than waiting for a reply." Beaudoin adds, "I talk to people that I wouldn't normally talk to. People that I have lost touch with, I talk to regularly now when we are both online. In some situations instant messenger has allowed me to get closer to a person, and learn more about them.

Instant messaging is widely popular and the trend appears to be continuing. The AIM service is now available through the web using a java-enabled browser, on cellular phones, palm pilots, and other wireless devices created solely for e-mail and instant messaging purposes. In a study conducted by America Online Inc. in 2000, 90% of people go online to communicate with friends and family, and 55% of them communicate through instant messaging.

It's clear that instant messaging has revolutionized college communication. It helps in arranging groups of people together and it saves a lot of money on phone bills. Morse uses AIM, "because it's fun," she said.

On the road again

By Brad Smith

Did you know that this campus has two fifteen-passenger vans? Did you know that the vans run four different services during the week? Well, I didn't. The Fitchburg State College Campus Center and the Student Activities Office in the Hammond Center head up this service.

Some investigating was done and this information was found: Mornings, Monday through Thursday, there is a FSC van in addition to the MART bus that circles the campus to bring people to on-campus buildings. It runs 7:45am to 10:00am. This van will wait in the civic center parking lot for commuters and faculty to board then take them to the FSC campus.

Residents, you don't want to lose that parking space, but you've got to get that shopping done. Face it, your parking space will definitely be gone when you get back. Here's what you do: Take the shopping shuttle from Aubuchon Hall. The shopping shuttle runs Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 4:00pm to 10:00pm. It's easier than driving yourself because you don't need to worry about walking to your car, or finding a spot when you return. You tell the driver where you want to be dropped off and what time you'd like to be picked up, and leave the rest up to them. They are courteous, and on time. They will take you to so many places: Wal-Mart, Shop & Save, Searstown Mall, Market Basket, Walgreen's, Barnes and Noble, Staples, BJ's Wholesale club, The Great Impasta, and more! It's ridiculous not to take this shuttle. It's so convenient.

OK, so you've got that paycheck in your hand, its Friday, but you can't cash it yet, because you don't have a ride to the bank. The shuttle van is waiting for you. Walk down to Aubuchon Hall and hop on; the driver will take you to Fleet Bank anytime from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. And because it's free, you don't have to waste that paycheck on gas for your car. Let's face it. Fitchburg State College isn't in the best part of town. That's why the vans provide a lift down to the Commuter rail to take you home for the weekend. The van will take you down to the Main St. stop at the times that the train leaves. So, toss your bags on the shuttle and let us take you! The vans will even pick you up at the train when you return.

The Shopping shuttle, the train shuttle, the parking shuttle, and the bank shuttle are four great ways to get off campus with out touching your car. So use this service, its free, friendly, and a fast way to get around. For more information on this service call Brad Smith at ext. 6116 or Jay Polonsky at ext. 5405.

Protecing public lands

Continued from page 4

"This bill will not stop necessary construction in our cities and towns. However, we do want to encourage communities to consider alternatives to using their last remaining parcels of open spaceCto make it a last resort rather than a first instinct," said Senator Pam Resor (D-Acton), author of the bill.

The bill is currently before the Senate Ways and Means Committee of the Legislature. Senator Antonioni, who sits on the Senate Ways and Means Committee, has not yet expressed his support for S.1109. MASSPIRG is urging concerned citizens to contact their legislators to express their support for S.1109. Contact: Erin Stone (978) 665-4238

"1964"...The Tribute

"1964"...The Tribute takes their audiences on a musical journey to an era in rock history that will live in all of our hearts.

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Saturday, October 13, 2001
8:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center
$3 for students, $5 for faculty, staff and parents,
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For more information, please call (978)665-3160.

Nykiel's goal gives Falcons overtime win

By **Orlando Claffey**

Like the outlaws of the Old West, the Women's Soccer Team rolled into Elliot Field with legs full of bullets and something to prove.

The townsfolk could only watch as FSC unloaded on Eastern Nazarene's goalie, firing 32 shots on goal in the 1-0 overtime victory October 4.

Ball control was the key for the Falcons, dominating Nazarene in the middle of the field and putting constant pressure on their defense. Sophomore Andrea Nykiel spearheaded the attack in the first half for FSC, making her presence felt with some aggressive play.

The Falcons attack the tiring Nazarene team throughout the first half, putting a season-high 19 shots on goal and holding their opponents to only two shots on goal. Even with balls coming from every angle, the visiting goalie stood firm and did not let anything pass.

FSC's best opportunity in the first halfcame when Freshman Stacy Jeleniewski crossed the ball in front of Nazarene's goal with 6:30 left, but Junior Lindsay Reardon was unable to get it by the hot handed goalie.

"We defiantly had something to prove after our last game," said Tom McGuinness, the Women's Soccer Coach, referring to the 2-0 loss to Mount Ida. "The players got a sense of what they could do against this team and took advantage of it."

With the game scoreless, both teams came out of halftime with energy. The visiting team pushed the ball up the field at the beginning of the half, but was halted when Goalkeeper Erin Kenney made a diving save on a Nazarene corner kick. That was to be their only shot on goal.

Photo by Orlando Claffey

Senior Kelly Tranter approches the ball for a corner kick. FSC dominated the game from the beginning, with over 30 shots on goal.

The Falcons responded with force, as Freshman Jill Folloni and Jeleniewski worked the ball up the right side of the field. The duo was able to slip the ball through the Nazarene defense a few times, but their goalkeeper remained unbeatable.

There were plenty of opportunities for FSC, but they were unable to get the ball into the net. Sophomore Sharon Torrisi, who re-entered the game after puling her hamstring earlier, made a run up the sideline with 22 minutes left in the half, but was shutdown in the goal box. Senior Kelly Tranter also had a chance after receiving a pass up the middle of the field, but her shot was stopped. FSC finished the second half with 11 shots on net and a zero in the score column.

"It was very frustrating to see so many chances without being able to score," said McGuiness, "but it is good to know that we do have the capability to do this. We just needed to take it slow and take some better shots."

It didn't take long for FSC to take control in overtime. The Falcons held the ball in Nazarene's end of the field and rarely let the ball slip past the center line.

Working the ball up the left side of the field, the Falcons gave themselves a few opputunies but once again, were unable to convert until Nykiel got the ball.

In the 99th minute, Nykiel dribbled her way past two Nazarene defenders and fired the ball toward the left goal post, beating one of the top goalies the team has faced. Her second goal of the season gave FSC the win, taking the game in overtime 1-0.

"That is one of the best goalies we will face all season," said McGuinness. "She was going to keep their team in the game no matter what we through at her." While the Nazarene keeper may have closed the net, FSC dominated on the field.

"We played well and did a lot of things that we wanted to do," said McGuinness. "Our formations worked and everone was aggressive."

The overtime win was the Soccer Team's second of the season, and put them a game under .500.❑

FSC picks a win from Framingham

By **Robin L. Kanter**

The Fitchburg State Football Team grabbed another win against the Framingham State Rams October 6, to bring their record up to 2-3. The Falcons were looking for a win after their devastating lost to Maritime last weekend after being in the lead 20-0.

FSC started strong with a touchdown pass to Brian Spencer within the first 5 minutes of the game. It was Spencer's second touchdown of the season, and gave the Falcons a 7-0 lead after Trevor Wilson kicked the extra point.

FSC held down Framingham till the end of the 1st quarter, where Framingham came back with a touchdown to bring the score 7-7.

Sophomore Carld Auguste, who had an outstanding game scored a touchdown for FSC bringing the lead to 13-7.

FSC came back strong with an interception by Freshman Brian Harnish, who then ran down the field 24 yards to score a touchdown. The Rams defense was able to block the two point conversion, but the Falcons did not stop there.

Auguste scored another touchdown for FSC, giving the Falcons a lead of 26-7. The Rams stood strong and came back with a touchdown by Patrick Sheen, leaving the lead for FSC only 13. The Rams then tried for a two point conversion and succeeded making the score 26-15.

FSC went on to win their game with excellent defense from Adam Keyes, Chris Witkowski, and Buddy Harrington. Carld Auguste had an outstanding game by carrying the ball for FSC, to great yardage.

The game's final score was 26-15, Falcons. FSC takes on Maine Maritime at Elliot Field Saturday.

Photo by Orlando Claffey

Senior Scott Cormier tackles a Framingham State College ballcarrier during FSC's 26-15 win.

Week in FSC Sports

Women's Soccer 2, Massacusetts College 2

Overtime has been a friend of the Women's Soccer Team all season. They are undefeated in three games involving the extra periods, but were unable to pull out the win this time. Kelly Trantor and Mary Lynn Cavanagh scored the goals for FSC.

UMASS-Dartmouth 2, Field Hockey 1

Freshman Veronica Orozco netted FSC's only goal, her second this season, but it was not enough to overcome UMASS. Angela Buffington had eight saves on the day.

Massachusetts College 3, Men's Soccer 1

Jeremy Seymour is on a tear, scoring his 11th goal of the season in a tough loss to Mass. College. This was Seymour's seventh goal in five games, but it wasn't enough to win the game

Field Hockey 4, Salve Regina 0

Sophomore Serena St. George lead the way for the Falcons, scoring two goals. Seniors Kelly Gorey and Michelle Perreault both had a goal and Goalkeeper Angela Buffington had seven saves for FSC.

2nd Half, Fall Intramural Sports

Racquetball League
Floor Hockey
Co- Rec Innertube Water Polo
Men's Basketball
Ping Pong Tournament

For more information or to register a team, contact Peter Murray at x3613 or go online at http://www.fsc.edu/intramural/

October 12	October 13	October 16	October 19	October 20
XCountry-TBA	Field Hockey- Bridgewater 10am Football- Maine Maritime Noon MSoccer- Salem State 5 WSoccer- at Salem State 11am Volleyball- at Bridgewater 1:30	MSoccer- Framingham State 7 WSoccer- at Framingham State 4	Volleyball- Worcester 5	XCountry- MASCAC Meet 11am Field Hockey- Southern Maine 1 Football- at Curry Noon MSoccer- at Bridgewater 1 WSoccer- Bridgewater 5

Seymour's goals help top Mt. Ida

Robin L. Kanter

The stands were packed Wednesday night and the people were energized, as the Fitchburg State Men's Soccer Team beat Mount Ida, making their record to 4-5-1.

Mount Ida took the early lead after being tripped in the box by Levi Remick. Kevin Lazaro scored, on a penalty kick against Goalkeeper Tim Pinto, to the low left corner.

Pushing, shoving, kicking, tripping, and yellow cards were seen much during this game. The first went to Mount Ida to Scott Godin, but Fitchburg was not far behind. Matt Berry got a yellow card along with Dana Jennings, and the bench of FSC. Both teams were at it till the end.

The Referees were not excepting anything, even if it was a fair play. As one FSC fan said after watching her team get penalty after penalty, "Just because the kid can't stand on his own feet, doesn't mean it is a penalty against FSC!"

Fitchburg defense was on a roll with outstanding goalkeeping by newly elected Sophomore Captain, Pinto. Jennings had an great game, carrying the ball up the field lead FSC's attack on the Mount Ida defense. Levi Remick and Keith Byette also had excellent games, along with Mark Giusto and Peter Samberg.

The Falcons struck back by tying up the game with a goal by Jeremy Seymour, to give him his 8th goal this season. The Falcons didn't stop there; Jean Nerette assisted Jeremy Seymour to give the Falcons the 2-1 lead.

The Falcons came back one more time to move the lead to 3-2, with a hat trick by Jeremy Seymour, giving him his 10th goal of this season. Nick Kraszyk was awarded the assist on this goal.

Mount Ida broke through the FSC defense by scoring a goal. Diego Centurion scored for Mount Ida making the lead for FSC just one goal. FSC stood strong for the remainder of the game giving them their 4th win of the season. The front line, consisting of Kristian Gonzalez, Pete DeOlim, Mateusz Bryszkowski, Andre Teixeria, and Peter Eklund, had an amazing game.❑

Spencer recovers fumbled life

By Robin L. Kanter

Fitchburg State College was a goal Brian M. Spencer only dreamed about. At 20 years old, Brian is a starting receiver for the Fitchburg State College Football Team. He is currently a freshman here on campus and has achieved more goals and dreams then one could ever dream of.

Brian was born and raised in North Attleboro, Massachusetts. In his hometown, football is everything, and it is everything to him. Brian played Varsity football for three years for the Red Rocketeers. In his senior year, he was awarded the MIAA Interscholastic Sportsmanship Award and the Coaches Award in football. He went on to finish a great high school year, graduating in 2000 and was in the top half of his class.

The summer before Brian's freshman year of college, he was working at the YMCA in North Attleboro helping little children, 40 hours a week. There Brian played all different kinds of sports and kept the children active.

Towards the end of the summer Brian started getting tired, weak and was finding it hard to get through the day. He confronted his mother with his problems and together they went to see the doctor. At first the doctors thought it was Streptococcus (Strep Throat), due to his sore throat. When Brian started to get worse, they soon learned that it was not Strep that was causing the problems, but something much worse.

Brian and his family found out that he had a case of Mononucleosis (Mono), which is an infectious disease characterized by an abnormal increase in the number of white blood cells with one nucleus, in the bloodstream. He had a general form of Hepatitis, which is an inflammation of the liver. And Jaundice, which is a disease that causes a yellowish tinge in the skin.

Photo by Orlando Claffey

Brain Spencer has overcome numerous illnesses to become a starting Wide Receiver for the Fitchburg State College Football Team.

Brian and his family were shocked to hear the news and they stuck together and fought against his sickness. Brian was bedridden. With the pain in his stomach and an inflamed liver, it was hard for Brian to get around. His brother Derek stuck by his side through all the pain and Brian got the courage to fight against this. He dealt with this by hanging out with his friends, since he was unable to play the sport he loved, football, Brian helped coach the North Attleboro High School football team. With his life forever changed, Brian drew on the support of his parents, especially his mother, Diane Spencer.

Photo by Orlando Claffey

Spencer runs through recieving drills during football practice at Elliot Field.

Time passed and Brian got stronger and healthier. His Jaundice passed after about a week and after about a month he was cleared of Hepatitis and Mononucleosis. With faith and believing in himself, Brian pushed himself to apply to college and was accepted at Fitchburg State College. Brian made his decision that FSC is where he wanted to go. It was far enough away from home, and he had a great chance to play football again.

Coach Dan Flynn was ecstatic when he found out that Brian Spencer would be attending FSC and would be interested in playing football for the Falcons.

"Spence is a great player, an impact player, a player who can come in as a freshman and play Varsity football", said Flynn. "I hope that Brian becomes one of the best receivers that FSC has ever had." Brian has support from his parents, friends, coaches, and most of all his teammates.

Steve Follis, who attended the Summer Bridge program with Brian and is also on the FSC football team, has known him for about three months now.

"Brian is a good friend," said Follis, "and a great teammate. If you ever need money or food he is there. You need anything Brian is there. It is what makes him a good friend."

Brian is currently a freshman here at FSC and is a starting receiver for the Falcons. He has decided to major in Law and minor in Psychology.

Brian Spencer has achieved many of his dreams, such as playing football again and going to college to get an education. He is the person he wanted to be, and most of all, he is getting to live a normal and happy life.